

## Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of performing a management task, the task modifying information associated with one or more back-end resources in a distributed network, the method comprising:

receiving information from a first resource related to a first task, the first task information for a first managed object of a predetermined object type;

receiving information from a second resource related to a second task, the second task associated with the first managed object;

storing the information received from the second resource in association with the information received from the first resource;

receiving a request to perform the management task in relation to the first managed object;

determining which resource to call in response to the request; and

sending a task request to the determined resource to perform the management task.

2. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises:

receiving a request to display task information related to the first object;

and

displaying task information received from both back-end resources in response to the request to display task information.

3. A method as defined in claim 2 wherein the method further comprises

receiving static task information related to the object type of the first

managed object;

storing the static task information in a task store;

5 receiving dynamic task information related to the first managed object, the dynamic task information including a task handler identification within the back-end resource; and

in response to the request to display task information, displaying both static and dynamic task information.

4. A method as defined in claim 3 wherein the task handler identification is a pointer to some executable code on the first resource.

5. A method as defined in claim 3 wherein the task handler identification relates to executable code on the first resource and the second resource.

6. A method as defined in claim 3 wherein the method further comprises:  
in response to the request to display task information, retrieving static task information from the task store;

5 sending a request for dynamic task information to one of the resources using the handler identification, the request including instance information for the first managed object; and

receiving dynamic task information for the instance of the first managed object.

7. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the method further comprising:  
associating a first management task with a second management task; and  
storing a script function, wherein the script function is callable and performs both the first management task and the second management task.

8. A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 1.

9. A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 2.

10. A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 3.

11. A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 6.

12. A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 7.

13. In a network environment having multiple resources, a computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing a method, the method comprising:

receiving a notification that a new resource has been installed on the network environment, the installation process including communication information with the new resource;

retrieving task information associated with new resource;

storing the task information associated with the new resource; and

sharing the task information with another resource on the network.

14. A computer program product as defined in claim 13 wherein the notification includes the task information.

15. A computer program product as defined in claim 13 wherein the task information relates to an object type managed by the new resource, the method further

comprising:

determining whether the task information relates to an existing managed

5 object type;

if so, associating the task information with the existing object type; and

if not, associating the task information with a new object type.

16. A computer program product as defined in claim 15 further comprising:

receiving a request to perform a management task with respect to an object

type; and

performing the management task with respect to all instances of the object

5 type.

17. A computer program product as defined in claim 15 further comprising:

receiving a request to display available tasks for an object type; and

displaying the management tasks available with respect to the object type.

18. A system for task-based management of a plurality of resources

comprising:

a management module in communication with the plurality of resources,

the management module capable of receiving a request to access information

5 related to one or more of the plurality of resources and to receive task information

from the plurality of resources; and

in response to the receipt of a request to perform a task, the management

module performing task functions on more than one resource.

19. A system as defined in claim 18, wherein the management module comprises a task manager to receive and store task information, the task manager further communicates with the resources to perform the management task.

20. A system as defined in claim 19 wherein each of the plurality of resources provides information to the task manager in XML format.

21. A system as defined in claim 19 further comprising a scripting manager for combining multiple tasks into a single script function.